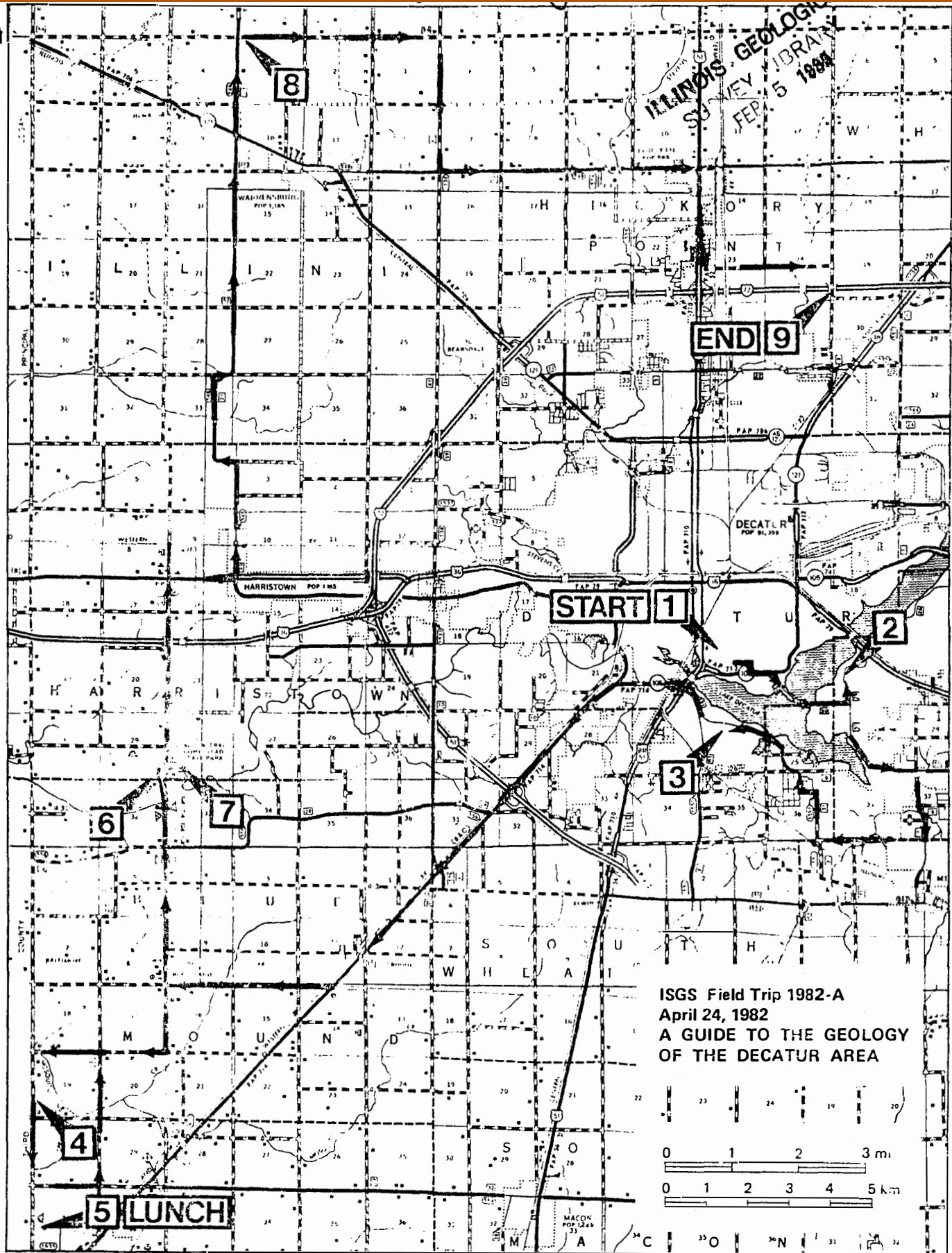


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1982-A

ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY LIBRARY  
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ISGS Field Trip 1982-A  
April 24, 1982  
A GUIDE TO THE GEOLOGY  
OF THE DECATUR AREA

# guide to the route

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<u>Miles to next point</u>	<u>Miles to starting point</u>	
0.0	0.0	Line up heading east on East Marion Street, east of Broadway, along the north side of Mueller Park in Decatur, in front of the Frontiers Community House for field trip registration.
		<input type="checkbox"/> STOP 1. Discussion of the history of the mineral industries in the immediate area.
0.0	0.0	Leave Stop 1. HEAD EAST on East Marion Street.
0.15	0.15	TURN RIGHT (south) on Hilton Street.
0.15	0.3	TURN LEFT (east) on Riverside Avenue.
0.05	0.35	STOP (2-way); South Maffit Street. Information from the Macon County Conservation District indicates that one of the original bridges across the Sangamon River was situated south of here many years ago. CONTINUE AHEAD (east) on Riverside Avenue.
0.25	0.6	STOP (1-way); T-intersection. TURN RIGHT (south) on Jasper Street. Move to the left and prepare to turn left.
0.1	0.7	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT; TURN LEFT (east) on East Lake Shore Drive and move to the outside (right) lane.
0.25	0.95	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT; TURN RIGHT (south and easterly) on Lost Bridge Road.
0.65	1.6	Cross bridge over Lake Decatur.
0.7	2.3	Prepare to turn left.
0.15	2.45	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT; TURN LEFT (north) on Country Club Road.
0.2	2.65	BEAR LEFT (northwesterly) on Country Club Road.
0.15	2.8	Prepare to turn left.
0.1	2.9	TURN LEFT (west) at entrance to Scovill Park.
0.1	3.0	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP 2. Study of glacial drift boulders in the Oriental Garden.
0.0	3.0	Leave Stop 2. CONTINUE AHEAD (southerly and easterly) through parking lot to exit.

<u>Miles to next point</u>	<u>Miles to starting point</u>	
0.1	3.1	STOP (1-way); TURN RIGHT (south) on Country Club Road.
0.4	3.5	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT; CONTINUE AHEAD STRAIGHT (south) on Lost Bridge Road.
0.8	4.3	View to right (southwest) of wave-cut bluffs formed in Pleistocene deposits along the south-east arm of Lake Decatur.
0.8	5.1	Prepare to turn right.
0.15	5.25	TURN RIGHT (south) on Baltimore Road. The swampy areas on both sides of the road here are the result of siltation in the lower portions of Long Creek (the larger stream crossed first) and Finley Creek. The gradient (slope) of their bottom profiles has flattened out as the streams approach Lake Decatur so that, except for periods of heavy rainfall resulting in increased surface run-off, the streams are quite sluggish and, therefore, unable to carry their suspended sediment load eroded from the adjacent uplands.
0.85	6.1	Prepare to turn right.
0.2	6.3	TURN RIGHT (west) on the Harryland Road at sign pointing to Girl Scout Camp.
0.35	6.65	The road on the right to the Girl Scout Camp is along the east side of Section 31, T. 16 N., R. 3 E., 3rd P.M. Commonly in Illinois, this east section line is aligned with the east section line of Section 6 in the township to the south. However, because of surveying corrections, the east line of Section 6, T. 15 N., R. 3 E., 3rd P.M., lies 0.7 mile to the west of this road corner. Land surveys will be discussed more fully later at Stop 4. CONTINUE AHEAD (west).
0.7	7.35	T-road from left (south). This is the east line of Section 6, T. 15 N., R. 3 E., 3rd P.M. CONTINUE AHEAD (west).
0.5	7.85	STOP (1-way); T-road from left (south). CONTINUE AHEAD (west), then TURN RIGHT (north) on Turpin Road.
0.7	8.55	CURVE LEFT (west) on Turpin Road.
0.25	8.8	CURVE RIGHT (north) on Turpin Road.
0.3	9.1	STOP (1-way); T-road intersection. TURN LEFT (west) toward Decatur.

<u>Miles to next point</u>	<u>Miles from starting point</u>	
0.1	9.2	BEAR RIGHT (northerly) onto Shores Drive.
0.35	9.55	CURVE LEFT (westerly) onto South Shores Drive.
0.3	9.85	Cross south arm of Lake Decatur.
0.3	10.15	Prepare to turn left beyond culvert.
0.1	10.25	TURN LEFT (south) into new subdivision and BEAR LEFT on the perimeter street. The gravelly till below the sod cover here erodes very easily. Follow it to the southwest, west, and north to Stop 3.
0.25	10.5	□ STOP 3. Discussion of Pleistocene Wisconsinan till on the west side of the subdivision.
0.0	10.5	Leave Stop 3. CONTINUE AHEAD (north).
0.1	10.6	STOP (1-way). CAUTION—TURN LEFT (west) onto South Shores Drive. Visibility is not good here.
0.9	11.5	BEAR LEFT into the inside lane for traffic clover-leaf ahead.
0.1	11.6	BEAR LEFT (west-northwest) toward State Route (SR) 105 west.
0.05-	11.65-	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT. CONTINUE AHEAD (west-northwest).
0.05+	11.7	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT. U.S. Business Route 51. CONTINUE AHEAD (west-northwest).
0.1-	11.8-	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT. CONTINUE AHEAD (west-northwest).
0.05	11.85-	CAUTION—SR 105 traffic merges from right. CONTINUE AHEAD (west-northwest and then west) on West Southside Drive (SR 105).
0.25+	12.1	CAUTION—2-lane traffic ahead.
0.15+	12.25+	View to right of slope between WAND TV property on the east and Bell Telephone Company property on the west. The steep slope between the two properties has been protected by a concrete apron; however, high groundwater movement behind the concrete has caused piping, which has removed the ground support behind the concrete, causing it to buckle and slip out of place.
0.35-	12.6	Prepare to turn left ahead.
0.1	12.7	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT. TURN LEFT (southwest) on South Taylorville Road (SR 48).
1.85	14.55	View to left (south and southeast) of higher part of Shelbyville Moraine in this vicinity.

<u>Miles to next point</u>	<u>Miles from starting point</u>	
0.45	15.0	CAUTION—U.S. 51 overpass. CONTINUE AHEAD (south-west) on SR 48.
0.3	15.3	CAUTION—divided highway ends.
2.65	17.95	CAUTION—enter Village of Boody.
0.9	18.85	Prepare to turn right.
0.1	18.95	TURN RIGHT (west) along the south side of the cemetery.
0.05	19.0	VIEW ahead (west) and on either side from this vantage point of the Illinoian till plain that lies some 50 to 60 feet lower. This location is about 50 feet below the crest of the Shelbyville Moraine to the east. This locality affords about the best view down across the Shelbyville outwash apron along this part of the itinerary. Blue Mound is the town in the distance to the left. To the right of Blue Mound are two prominent hills; lunch will be near the base of the smaller hill to the right.
0.05-	19.05-	CAUTION—UNGUARDED Norfolk and Western (N&W) Railroad crossing; 2 tracks.
0.4+	19.45	CAUTION—unmarked crossroad. CONTINUE AHEAD (west).
2.0	21.45	STOP (2-way). TURN LEFT (south) on Macon County Route 27.
0.1	21.55	VIEW to left (east) shows the Shelbyville Moraine in the distance. It is not a particularly prominent ridge in this area, largely because the slopes from the Illinoian till plain up to the top of the Shelbyville are relatively gentle.
0.9	22.45	T-road intersection. TURN RIGHT (west). After the turn, note the flat to gently rolling land surface. As you proceed westward you can see the two glacial mounds northwest of Blue Mound several times.
1.0	23.45	CAUTION—unmarked crossroad. CONTINUE AHEAD (west).
0.3	23.75	VIEW to left of oil field storage tanks. These tanks may represent a southward extension of the Blackland Oil Pool or an eastward extension of the Mt. Auburn Consolidated Oil Pool in Christian County. There are oil drill rigs operating in this area, so you may see a rig on location.
0.55	24.3	CAUTION—narrow, 1-lane bridge.

<u>Miles to next point</u>	<u>Miles from starting point</u>	
0.15	24.45	CAUTION—unmarked T-road intersection. TURN LEFT (south). The itinerary here is along the Macon-Christian County Line. This boundary line is also the Third Principal Meridian (3rd P.M.) referred to in land surveys.
0.75	25.2	□ STOP 4. Discussion of land surveys in Illinois.
0.0	25.2	Leave Stop 4 and CONTINUE AHEAD (south).
0.25	25.45	CAUTION—unmarked crossroad. CONTINUE AHEAD (south).
1.0	26.45	CAUTION—unmarked crossroad. CONTINUE AHEAD (south).
0.05	26.5	VIEW to south of the two glacial hills (kames) mentioned previously. The one to the right in Christian County is quite a bit larger than the one in Macon County. The larger kame has been mined at several locations for its sand and gravel.
0.25	26.75	VIEW to left (east) of abandoned gravel pit in smaller kame.
0.35	27.1	TURN LEFT (easterly) at Griswold Conservation Area entrance.
0.15	27.25	TURN LEFT (north) at the second parking lot entrance and follow parking instructions.
0.1	27.35	□ STOP 5. Lunch followed by a discussion of kames and other glacial features in this vicinity.
0.0	27.35	Leave Stop 5. Retrace route to park entrance.
0.15	27.5	STOP (1-way). TURN RIGHT (north) on County Line Road.
0.65	28.15	CAUTION—unmarked crossroad. TURN RIGHT (east). After making the turn look to the right (south) at the mound several times as you proceed eastward.
1.0	29.15	CAUTION—unmarked crossroad. TURN LEFT (north).
0.1	29.25	VIEW to right (east) of Shelbyville Moraine.
0.9	30.15	CAUTION—unmarked crossroad. CONTINUE AHEAD (north).
0.9	31.05	Prepare to turn right.
0.1	31.15	CAUTION—unmarked crossroad. TURN RIGHT (east).
1.0	32.15	STOP (1-way); T-road intersection. TURN LEFT (north) on Macon County Highway 27 (MCH-27).

Miles to  
next point

<u>Miles to next point</u>	<u>Miles from starting point</u>	
1.25	33.4	CAUTION—guarded railroad crossing; 2 tracks.
1.75	35.15	STOP (4-way). CONTINUE AHEAD (north) on MCH-27.
0.65	35.8	Cross Sangamon River.
0.25	36.05	Prepare to turn left.
0.15	36.2	TURN LEFT (west) at entrance to Macon County Materials, Inc. You MUST have permission to enter this property.
0.2	36.4	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP 6. Discussion of outwash gravel terrace along the Sangamon River and sample collecting.
0.0	36.4	Leave Stop 6. Retrace route to entrance.
0.2	36.6	STOP (1-way). TURN LEFT (north) on MCH-27.
0.1	36.7	Prepare to turn right.
0.15	36.85	TURN HARD RIGHT (south and then east) into entrance of Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park.
0.3	37.15	TURN RIGHT (south) into small parking area; follow parking instructions.
0.05	37.2	<input type="checkbox"/> STOP 7. Descend wood stairway to Sangamon River for discussion of Wisconsin glacial deposits exposed in river bluff below the Lincoln Cabin.
0.0	37.2	Leave Stop 7. TURN LEFT (west) upon leaving the small parking lot and retrace route to park entrance.
0.35	37.55	STOP (1-way). Leave Lincoln Trail Homestead State Park and CONTINUE AHEAD (north) on MCH-27, which crosses the outer flanks of the Shelbyville Moraine.
0.25	37.8	VIEW to right (east) of oil well tank batteries; Harristown Oil Pool.
0.8	38.6	VIEW to right (east) of a steeper part of the Shelbyville Moraine front.
0.7	39.3	Cross I-72 overpass.
1.0	40.3	STOP (2-way); U.S. 36. TURN RIGHT (east)
0.5	40.8	U.S. 36 becomes a divided highway. STAY LEFT in the eastbound lane to prepare for left turn.
0.35	41.15	Enter Harristown.
0.15	41.3	CAUTION—TURN LEFT (north) across westbound U.S. 36.
0.5	41.8	CAUTION—railroad crossing and signals. CONTINUE AHEAD (north) on Meridian Road.

<u>Miles to next point</u>	<u>Miles from starting point</u>	
0.25	42.05	Leave Harristown (north) on MCH-21. The itinerary is along the highest part of the Shelbyville Moraine in this area.
0.4	42.45	On both sides of the road are low sags in the moraine surface that collect surface waters. Unless fields are tiled, these water-filled sags can be serious problems to farming practices.
0.55	43.0	BEAR LEFT (west).
0.3	43.3	BEAR RIGHT (north).
1.2	44.5	BEAR RIGHT (east).
0.25	44.75	BEAR LEFT (north). VIEW to left (west) toward the Illinoian till plain in the distance.
2.5	47.25	Panoramic VIEW from north-northeast to southwest from a vantage point on the Shelbyville Moraine. Shows the lower Illinoian till plain very well. Warrensburg is to the east-northeast.
1.0	48.25	CAUTION—Illinois Central Gulf (ICG) Railroad crossing. STEEP GRADE beyond tracks to highway stop sign.
0.05-	48.3-	STOP (2-way); SR-121, Lincoln National Memorial Highway.
1.35+	49.65	Prepare to turn right.
0.1	49.75	TURN RIGHT (east) at crossroad.
0.1	49.85	□ STOP 8. Discussion of moraine features as seen to the east and south along the Shelbyville Moraine.
0.0	49.85	Leave Stop 8. CONTINUE AHEAD (east) on MCH-54.
1.5	51.35	The route is rising almost imperceptibly onto the Shelbyville Moraine.
0.5	51.85	The highway grade steepens rapidly in the higher part of the moraine.
0.4	52.25	VIEW to west across the Illinoian till plain is impressive.
0.55	52.8	STOP (2-way). TURN RIGHT (south) on MCH-41.
0.7	53.5	Panoramic VIEW in all directions from this high point on the Shelbyville Moraine. To the right (southwest) is Warrensburg and the Illinoian till plain in the distance. To the left is the back-slope of the Shelbyville Moraine.



<u>Miles to next point</u>	<u>Miles from starting point</u>	
1.3	54.8	STOP (2-way). TURN LEFT (east on MCH-20).
0.45	55.25	Route descends the backslope of the Shelbyville Moraine.
2.95	58.2	Enter town of Forsyth.
0.5	58.7	STOP (2-way); U.S. 51. CAUTION—heavy traffic. TURN RIGHT (south).
0.7	59.4	CAUTION—divided highway and shopping center to right.
0.2+	59.6+	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT. CONTINUE AHEAD (south).
0.15	59.75+	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT. CONTINUE AHEAD (south). Get in inside lane beyond stoplight and prepare for left turn.
0.15-	59.9	CAUTION—STOPLIGHT. TURN LEFT (east).
0.05	59.95	TURN RIGHT (south) on Hickory Point Road East.
0.3	60.25	TURN LEFT (east) just beyond the left-turn sign.
0.35	60.6	CAUTION—unguarded ICG Railroad crossing. CONTINUE AHEAD (east). Route is through the Forsyth Oil Pool.
1.6	62.2	STOP (1-way); T-road intersection. TURN RIGHT (south).
0.3	62.5	Cross I-72.
0.1	62.6	□ STOP 9. Discussion and view of Forsyth Oil Pool. END OF TRIP!

Illinois State Geological Survey  
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